

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-37 Canceled

38. (Currently amended) A process comprising reacting boron-derivative functional groups and halide functional groups directly substituted on aromatic rings or other unsaturated species in a reaction mixture, the boron-derivative functional groups being selected from the group consisting of a boronic acid group, a boronic ester group and a borane group, wherein the reaction mixture comprises a catalytic amount of a suitable reaction catalyst and an organic base including a tetraalkyl ammonium entity in an amount sufficient to convert the boron-derivative functional groups into  $-BX_3^-$  anionic groups, wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH.

39 (Currently amended) A process comprising reacting boron-derivative functional groups and halide functional groups directly substituted on aromatic rings or other unsaturated species, including the steps of preparing under ~~non-reaction~~ conditions under which said boron-derivative functional groups and said halide functional groups do not react, an organic cation salt of the boron-derivative functional groups by the reaction thereof with an organic base in an amount sufficient to convert the boron-derivative groups into boronate anionic groups ( $-B(X)_3^-$ ), wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH, and then reacting the boronate anionic groups with halide functional groups in the presence of a suitable reaction catalyst.

40 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 38, wherein X is OH.

41 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 39, wherein X is OH.

42 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 38, wherein at least 1.5 equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

43 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 42, wherein at least two equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

44 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 38, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of tetraalkylammonium carbonates, tetraalkylammonium bicarbonates and tetraalkylammonium hydroxides.

45 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 39, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of tetraalkylammonium carbonates, tetraalkylammonium bicarbonates and tetraalkylammonium hydroxides.

46 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 44, wherein the organic base comprises  $R'R''R'''R''''NOH$ , wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$ ,  $R'''$  and  $R''''$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl groups.

47 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 45, wherein the organic base comprises  $R'R''R'''R''''NOH$ , wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$ ,  $R'''$  and  $R''''$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl groups.

48 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 46, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of  $(CH_3)_4NOH$ ,  $(C_2H_5)_4NOH$  and  $(C_3H_7)_4NOH$ .

49 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 47, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of  $(CH_3)_4NOH$ ,  $(C_2H_5)_4NOH$  and  $(C_3H_7)_4NOH$ .

50 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 38, wherein the organic base is a tetraalkylammonium carbonate or a tetraalkylammonium bicarbonate.

51 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 39, wherein the organic base is a tetraalkylammonium carbonate or a tetraalkylammonium bicarbonate.

52 (Previously presented) A process of according to claim 38, wherein the organic base is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an inorganic base.

53 (Previously presented) A process of according to claim 39, wherein the organic base is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an inorganic base.